



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Thursday, May 4, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.R. 434—Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
(Conference Report)**

H.R. 673—Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Act

H.R. 1106—Alternative Water Sources Act

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H.R. 434—Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: At press time, the conference report for H.R. 434 had not been filed and the Rules Committee had not met to issue a rule on the conference report. It is expected that the conference report will be filed Thursday morning, May 4 and the Rules Committee will meet shortly thereafter. An update will be issued by the *Legislative Digest* as soon as the rule is reported by the committee.

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H.R. 673—Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act of 1999

Floor Situation: On Tuesday, May 2, 2000, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text that is open to amendment at any point and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 673 authorizes the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make federal funds available on a matching basis for projects designed to replace inadequate wastewater

treatment and stormwater management systems in Monroe County, Florida. The bill authorizes \$32 million for the first fiscal year, \$31 million for the second year and \$50 million for the next three fiscal years. There is a cost-share requirement that total project costs must consist of no less than 25 percent to come from non-federal sources and there is a viability assessment with regard to growth management policies within Monroe County. The federal funds authorized under the bill supplement those committed by the State of Florida and Monroe County for planning and construction of these projects. A CBO estimate was not available at press time. The bill was introduced by Mssrs. Deutsch and Clay on February 10, 1999 and was reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote on April 11, 2000.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendment:

Mr. Miller (FL) may offer an amendment to limit the statutory construction of the bill to ensure that nothing in the bill will prohibit efforts to improve water quality by monitoring phosphorus runoff from sugar farming in Florida or taking steps to mitigate the impact of phosphorus on water quality.

Contact: *Paul Pisano, x5-5015*

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H.R. 1106—Alternative Water Sources Act of 1999

Floor Situation: On Tuesday, May 2, 2000, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text that is open to amendment at any point and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1106 authorizes \$75 million per year for FYs 2000-2004 (with a non-federal cost share of 50 percent) for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants for alternative water source projects to state, interstate, and intrastate water resource development agencies, local government agencies. Additional entities that have authority under state law to develop or provide water for municipal, industrial, or agricultural uses in areas experiencing critical water supply needs are also eligible for these funds. This bill also makes all states and territories eligible for the new funds. However, the measure prohibits the funding of a project under this Act if the project has received funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's water reclamation and reuse program authorized in the 1992 Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act.

The bill also requires the Administrator to consider whether a project is eligible under the Bureau of Reclamation's program when selecting projects for grants under this Act. Additionally, the bill requires approval by a resolution of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for any projects where the federal share of costs exceeds \$3 million. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation will cost \$256 million over FYs 2000-2005. The bill was introduced by Ms. Fowler and Ms. Thurman on March 11, 1999 and was reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote on April 11, 2000.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to the bill.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #11, April 28, 2000.

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